

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 and 18-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 7 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 8-11 and 21-24 have been withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this rejection, in particular, Applicant has cancelled claims 7 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicant is concurrently filing an Information Disclosure Statement citing the art listed in Applicant's specification.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 13-16 and 18-20 are allowed. The Examiner also states that claims 3-6 contain allowable subject matter. Merely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2 and the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-5 should now be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brückner (DE 545 820). Claims 1, 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

as being anticipated by Bernardson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,851,166). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts independent claims 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance. As claim 12 depends from claim 1, claim 12 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been cancelled and thus the rejection to claim 2 has been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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